

Message Text

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45

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCI-06 PC-10 USIA-15 IO-14 INR-11

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AF-10 EB-11 TRSE-00 /194 W

----- 018223

R 220835Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2670

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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AFDROUGHT

ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EAID, SW, AF, EAGR, UN, FAO

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE; GRAIN DONATIONS TO SAHEL

REF: A. STOCKHOLM 351; B. 3403 (NOTAL) C. STATE 167108

1. ULF HJERTONSSON, MFA ACTING DIRECTOR FOR MULTILATERAL AID, INFORMED EMBOFF AUGUST 19 THAT SWEDEN WAS LIKELY TO PROPOSE TO NOVEMBER WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE WHEAT STOCKPILING SCHEME TO BE ADMINISTERED BY WORLD FOOD PROGRAM OR OTHER APPROPRIATE ORGANIZATION. DISCUSSIONS WITHIN GOS ARE FAIRLY ADVANCED REGARDING DETAILS OF PROPOSAL, WHICH NOW AWAITS ONLY CONCURRENCE OF FINANCE MINISTRY.

2. HJERTONSSON SAID THAT, IN PROPOSING PLAN, SWEDEN
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WOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE FIVE-YEAR COMMITMENT TO STOCK EACH

HEAR SPECIFIC QUANTITY OF WHEAT, SUBSTANTIALLY GREATER THAN CURRENT ANNUAL TOTAL OF SWEDISH BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL WHEAT DONATIONS. STOCK WOULD BE INTENDED SOLELY TO MEET EMERGENCIES. SWEDISH COMMITMENT WOULD BE IN TERMS OF QUANTITY, NOT PRICE. GOS IS ALSO THINKING ABOUT STOCKING OTHER FOOD ITEMS, SUCH AS FISH CONSERVES AND VEGETABLE OIL, BUT AMOUNTS WOULD BE NEGLIGIBLE COMPARED TO WHEAT.

3. SWEDISH PROPOSAL DOES NOT MEAN GOS WOULD CANCEL ITS BILATERAL AID PROGRAMS THROUGH WHICH IT NOW CHANNELS EMERGENCY FOOD AID, HJERTONSSON SIAD. (MOST SWEDISH FOOD AID GIVEN TO INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS HAS HERETOFORE BEEN FOR DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES.)

4. AS SOON AS FINANCE MINISTRY APPROVES QUANTITY OF COMMITMENT, AND HJERTONSSON HOPED THERE WILL BE NO DIFFICULTY, HE WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION TO USG.

5. HJERTONSSON PROVIDED ABOVE INFORMATION WHEN EMBOFF RETURNED TO MFA WITH RENWED INQUIRY ABOUT GOS ABILITY TO CONTRIBUTE ADDITIONAL WHEAT IN 1974 PREHARVEST PERIOD AND IN 1975 TO SAHEL; OUR SECOND APPROACH FOLLOWED RECENT OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT THAT SWEDISH WHEAT CROP IS EXPECTED TO REACH RECORD LEVEL OF 1.4 BILLION TONS THIS YEAR, WITH 600,000 TONS OF THIS AMOUNT AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT. NEVERTHELESS, HJERTONSSON DOUBTED THAT THERE WOULD BE ANY ADDITIONAL WHEAT AVAILABLE FOR SAHEL FROM SWEDEN THIS YEAR; HE GAVE INFORMATION ABOUT STOCKPILING SCHEME AS MORAL EQUIVALENT, POINTING OUT THAT STOCKS WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR SHIPMENT TO SAHEL OR WHEREVER ELSE INTERNATIONAL ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOUND NEED.

6. GOS CONCERN WITH WORLD'S EMERGENCY FOOD NEEDS APPEARS DEEP. UNLESS DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDS OTHERWISE, EMBASSY THEREFORE PROPOSES TO AWAIT FURTHER DETAILS OF SWEDISH WHEAT STOCK PLAN BEFORE CONSIDERING WHETHER OR NOT TO PRESS SWEDES FOR ADDITIONAL WHEAT CONTRIBUTION TO SAHEL IN CONTEXT OF MULTIDONOR PROGRAM.

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Message Attributes

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